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VOL. 2, No. 2

EDITORIAL

OCTOBER, 1949

IN THIS ISSUE

WILD TURKEYS
By Major James Brown

SHRIMP FESTIVAL
By Mel Washburn

WHITE TAILED DEER
By James Nelson Gowanloch

THE LADY FISH
By Lou S. Caine

ARMS AND AMMUNITION
By Jack O'Connor

SWIMMING OF FISHES
By James Nelson Gowanloch

GUN DOG PSYCHOLOGY
By James R. Hayes

COVER

Just a hound dog named Butch, used through courtesy of Winchester Arms.

By Ernest S. Clements

Commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries
of Louisiana

IT IS humanitarian to give and American to pledge, and a pledge for the conservation of our state's wild life resources is an assurance for the future. In a nation-wide contest the following pledge was adjudged the best by Outdoor Life magazine, which sponsored the contest:

"We give our pledge, as Americans, to save and faithfully defend from waste, the natural resources of our country, its soils and minerals, its forests, waters and wildlife."

We in Louisiana pledge and give our time, our efforts and our earthly goods to worthy causes to make life more pleasant for our fellow man, and to make this world a better place in which to live.

As Americans we control our own destinies. We can be born in an humble cabin and eventually live in the White House. Our pathway through life can be of our own choosing, no matter who we are, or where we were born. We may work, worship and play anywhere, anytime and in any way we desire. In this land of freedom our opportunities are unlimited, our traditions great, and our liberties guaranteed.

We have faithfully defended and preserved our way of life for almost two centuries, yet through peace and war we have remained true to the ideals upon which this country was founded. We always have, and always will dedicate ourselves to saving and defending for our children, our unlimited opportunities in a greater America.

Waste and Americanism, however, too often have gone together. Because we have had so much, we often disregard things which are considered priceless by others. Even our scraps have provided the means with which to wage war against us. Now, with the welfare of this world on our shoulders, everything American counts. Today conservation of our natural resources will determine our future greatness. We MUST use them wisely and protect them from waste.

What could we have, or what could we be without the natural resources of our state and country? By the grace of God, we are blessed with an abundance of natural resources, and we have developed these into the highest standard of living in the world. They say America has everything—it has—who would deny it? Life comes from our soil. The food we eat, the clothes we wear, the fuel we burn all come from our rich earth. Skyscrapers and sewing needles, radio sets and writing pens, atom bombs and axes, all come from the 'dirt beneath our feet'. Our greatness lies in the land we live on.

Every stand of forest, every drop of clear, clean water and all our wildlife carries a message for Americans. "Use us wisely" they say, "or we will vanish entirely." How well we preserve and profit from God's great outdoors—forests, waters and wildlife—will determine our future welfare. Shall we despoil and become beggars along the pathways of our plundered planet, or shall we conserve and set an example for all humanity?

DO YOU LIKE PICTURES?

So do we! Hunting pictures . . . fishing pictures . . . pictures of the game you bagged . . . pictures of your dogs . . . pictures of yourself or your friends on a hunt or fishing trip . . . in fact any kind of good picture that has a bearing on field or stream sports.

Mail them to EDITOR, LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans, and we'll return 'em to you as soon as we've been able to use them.

NACEP Directors Hold Annual Conference

By Mel Washburn

ESTIMATING that fishing and hunting in all their phases represents more than a three-billion-dollar expenditure in the United States every year, the National Association of Conservation Education and Publicity directors, who met in their annual conference at the Edgewater Gulf hotel, at Gulf Park, Miss., September 21 through September 25, laid particular stress on the job that confronts each state's representative in educating the public to conservation of all forms of wildlife.

That all conservationists are faced with a tough job was evident when the conditions that apply in individual sections of the country were found to be greatly similiar in all others areas. And, coincidentally, the need of one was found to be the need of the majority . . . greatly increased funds for the promotion of conservation education.

Fish and game management executives are expected to provide good fishing and hunting in their individual states, and in

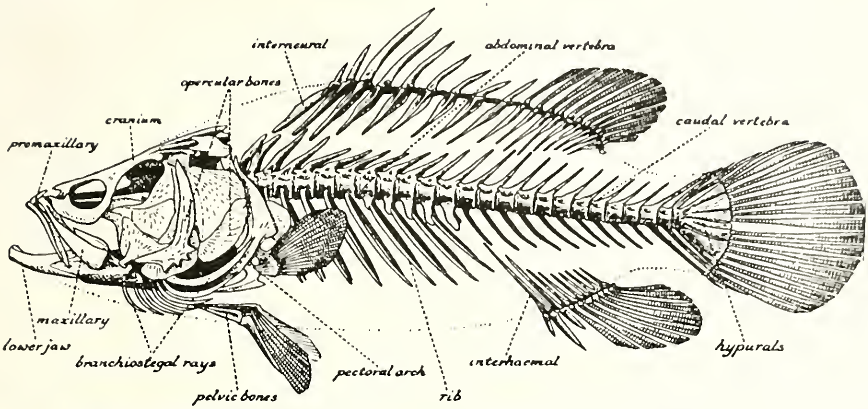
(Continued on Page 26)

National Association of Conservation Educational and Publicity executives who met at a recent conference at the Edgewater Gulf Hotel, Gulf Park, Miss. (Top picture, left to right) Hendrix Dawson, of Jackson, Miss., host to the conventionnaries; Bill Kah, of Ohio, secretary-treasurer of the organization; Dick Gearhart, of Michigan; Marian Gauttu, of Oregon; James Bailey, of Tennessee, president of NACEP; Rod Amundson, of North Carolina, and James Harlan, of Iowa, all directors of conservation education in their respective states.

(Center—left to right) Michael Hudoba, Washington editor of "Sports Afield" magazine; H. S. Swingle, fish culturist of Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and R. W. Eschmeyer, Tennessee Valley Authority biologist, who made the three principal addresses dur-the conference.

(Lower picture—left to right) Newly elected officers of NACEP . . . Bill Kah, of Ohio, secretary-treasurer; Jack Culbreth, Colorado, vice-president; Dr. F. Olin Capps, of Missouri, president; James Bailey, Tennessee; William Drake, of Pennsylvania, and Dick Gearhart, of Michigan, members of the Board of Directors.

THE SWIMMING OF FISHES



The side view of a typical boney fish (teleost) which is characteristic of the structure of our most important game fish.

A study of streamlining if you'll compare this with the fish.

By James Nelson Gowanloch

(Chief Biologist, Department of Wild Life and Fisheries)

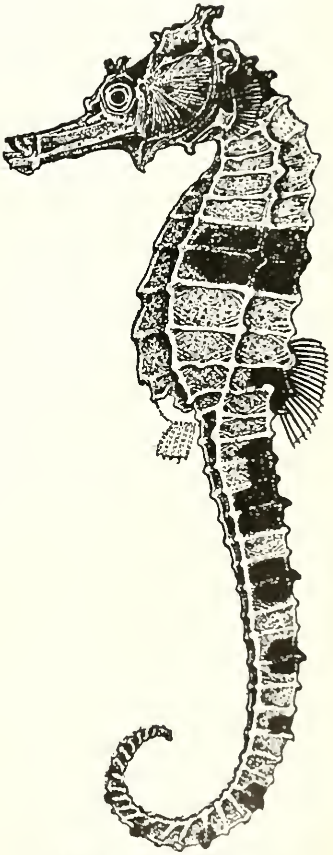
ARDENT fishermen and violent arguments are inescapably tangled. Fortunately, disagreements never diminish the ardor and in the end, usually, not even feelings get hurt. Controversies regarding the speed at which fish swim developed at a recent Tarpon Rodeo and led to a request that the writer prepare a television broadcast, devised in an attempt to answer some of these questions.

The interest aroused led to the request that some of these pertinent scientific facts be here presented, since there does exist the most surprising lack of knowledge on the part of many fishermen, concerning the speed of fishes, the source of motive power of fishes, the extraordinary diversity and range of their abilities.

If you wish to please some Olympic champion by saying she can swim like a fish, you had better be careful to explain what fish she swims like, otherwise, if she is a good Zoologist, you will be in profound trouble.

A good starting point to begin the study of the swimming of fishes is, as a matter of fact, to contemplate the anatomy of either a female Olympic swimming champion or an equally pulchritudinous Hollywood starlet.

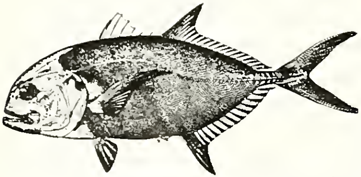
Surprisingly, the swimming starlet and the swimming fish are made up of essentially the same parts, very differently distributed, with consequent and powerful varying differences in interest. The starlet



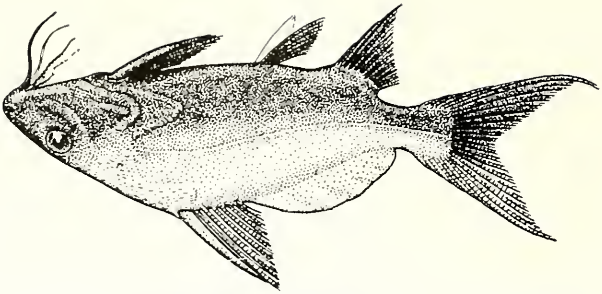
The Seahorse, another of our fish that always leads an upright swimming life.

swims with her valuable legs and less valuable arms, while the fish swims with his body and steers himself with his equivalent of legs and arms, his fins. In terms of comparative anatomy, the body of the fish and the human body are virtually about the ultimately primitive and the ultimately specialized in vertebrate structure. The fish's body is made up of repeated segments, the number and sequence of which is reflected in the successive elements of the backbone and of the structures which are, or correspond to, ribs. In the fish, these muscular segments, which are known technically as myomeres, form the major part of the fish's body and constitute the fish "flesh" we eat. Their contraction alternately on one side or the other (or in the case of Eels, successive waves of contraction) causes the lateral movement of the fish and provides the power that drives the fish forward.

However, in the case of man (embracing woman), these segments have become transformed into intercostal muscles and are used not for the purpose of swimming but largely for the purpose of expanding and contracting the lungs. Failure of their function, as in poliomyelitis, requires the use of the iron lung. A fish's intercostal muscles, on the other hand, have scarcely anything to do with his breathing but everything to do with the power that gets him from here to there. The fish's direction of where he is going, up or down or right or left, is controlled almost entirely by his fins, which serve in much the fashion in the water as do the vertical and horizontal rudders of a plane in the air. The Hollywood starlet steers, at least her aquatic course by the use of her legs and also by the use of her arms, although both, as in her acting, may be her measure of success or failure. The difference of this importance of ribs is well shown by the fact that fishes have a variable number according to the species and they extend throughout the entire body length, whereas the Eve of Eden and the Eve of the Screen (I am informed) both have only twenty-four pairs, twelve on each side.



The common Jack fish, another study in streamlining.



Synodontis, the extraordinary African fish that even the Pharoahs knew swims upside down.

Fish present terrific navigational engineering problems since the species range in size from the full grown Mistichthys of the Philippine Islands, less than one-fourth inch long when full grown, to the Whale Shark (taken at least eight times in the Gulf of Mexico and without doubt the biggest fish in the world) that has been known to reach sixty feet in length and of which a thirty-eight foot specimen, weighed, on the scales and not in the imagination, 26,594 pounds.

Fish use three methods of propulsion. First, and greatly commonest and most powerful, is the already described expansion and contraction of the muscle segments. This is used by such familiar fishes as the Black Bass, the Tarpon, the Speckled Trout, the Jackfishes and Shark. Fishes that swim this way use the fins chiefly for steering, not for power. A simple experiment performed on an European fish, the Rudd, proves this. Two rudds were taken and the tail fin of one cut off with scissors, an operation that apparently causes the fish no pain. When raced together, these fish arrived at the same time, the tailless fish merely waggling his body faster than the one with the tail.

Goldfish fanciers will recall the extraordinary development of the streaming, drape-like tails of the cultured "Comets." These so much admired structures are useless and actually impede the fish's activities since these tails are just as much biological monstrosities as the horribly wrecked anatomy of some of the most admired roses of the horticulturist.

Second, some fish cannot move their bodies at all and, therefore, must swim merely by use of fins. Such is our common Louisiana Cowfish (one of the Box fishes whose external covering has become coalesced into an immovable frame so that only its fins and eyes are free.) Also, that Louisiana fish, the Seahorse, that looks so much like a chess knight.

The Seahorse, in spite of the fact that he swims vertically, can with equal skill, though as we shall see with little speed, progress equally well forwards or backwards.

The third type of fish swimming is jet propulsion whereby the fish in respiration takes the water in through its mouth, closes its mouth and squirts the water backwards through the gill openings. Most fish may, to some degree, use this method and the direction of the gill openings conforms with this interpretation. Fin swimmers, like the Box fishes and Leatherjackets and Trigger fishes, use this as an accessory source of power, much in the fashion that an airplane uses jet assisted take off (Jato).

Fish swimming is greatly aided, in species that possess it, by the use of the swim bladder, which although apparently in remote times was a lung (and still is used as a "lung" in our Gar, Bowfin (Choupique), Tarpon, and more effectively, a lung in the foreign lung fishes) has become in func-

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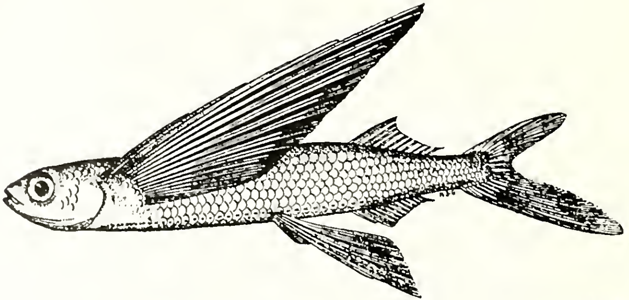


The Atlantic flying fish, a Louisiana species that actually glides long distances without the aid of a propellor.

THE ABC'S OF GUN DOG PSYCHOLOGY

by James R. Hayes

WE LEFT the dirt-road about four o'clock, unleashed Tessie, and followed her into the field. There were six weeks to hunting season, and the three of us—Paul, his pointer, and I—were warming-up for the big day.

The autmunal afternoon was slipping steadily on towards evening. All nature was at the season of ripening—in open fields, burdocks and briars were brown in the dry yellow grass; the fringing woods were brilliant with fall colors.

Tessie ranged eagerly through the brush, nose wanting bird-scent. Cross-field she worked, to a clump of young sumacs. A half-fallen railfence showed above the tall grasses. Tangles of briar and goldenrod grew up through the rails. It looked birdish. And Tessie, hot on a trail, slid into a beautiful point beside the fence.

Paul and I stood there, watching, then moved into flush. There was a flurry of wings as a ringneck, iridescent in the sunlight, hammered out and sailed to a faraway cornfield. We watched him glide out of sight.

"Instinct," said Paul, patting Tessie's side, "instinct is a wonderful thing. Just think of all the breeding, all the generations of gun-dogs that went into that point."

"Aren't you forgetting something?" I asked. "Seems to me the trainer deserves a little credit."

"No doubt about that," Paul said. He picked some burrs from Tessie's ear. "But it's mainly instinct. In the blood, y'know."

I didn't know, but I decided to find out. My findings were rather surprising. For it was, for me, really surprising to discover how few dog owners completely understand the basic motives underlying hunting and pointing traits in their dogs, understand the psychology of gun-dogs. I bring in this term "psychology" because it is, in essence, the study of behavior and motives. And since we cannot possibly know what our dogs think, we can judge them only through their behavior.

Like Paul, many dog owners have the notion that hunting is instinctive for sporting dogs. By "instinctive" they mean that their hounds and pointers are compelled to hunt, that it is a natural inborn urge. Yet recent studies indicate that it is no more instinctive for dogs to hunt than it is for them to jump through hoops. If we raise our setters with game birds, they will become conditioned to them. Such conditioning could not have taken place if hunting was instinctive.

Similarly, a beagle pup, raised in a controlled environment and not given the opportunity to develop hunting traits, will not come by them naturally. Chances are good that he will learn to run rabbits if permitted to observe other hounds. But unless the opportunity to learn and imitate is present, he will not hunt through instinct, heredity, or internal compulsions.

There are many popular misconceptions concerning instincts. When a dog circles several times before lying down, we say it is an instinct. In the dawn of dog history, wild canines circled to trample down grass. Therefore, through the magic process of heredity, our dogs continue to circle before lying down. Yet pups will never circle before lying down unless they see other dogs circling. And that makes it learned behavior, not an instinct.

We also say that migratory traits in birds are instinctive. But scientific studies have conclusively demonstrated that migratory traits in birds are responses to certain external conditions. Instinct is an internal compulsion.

Concerning pointers and pointing, all evidence tends to show that pointing is strictly a learned skill. All dogs point. That is, all dogs have a tendency to become rigid and look at objects. This inclination is possibly a holdover from puppyhood when, due to poor vision, it was necessary for the dog to stare intently at objects to determine what they were. The same is true of noises. When the pup heard a strange sound, he froze, ears erect, body rigid, assuming all the characteristic of a point.

Pointing in bird dogs is merely a strengthening and a directing of freezing tendencies through imitation and reward training. When a pointer pup sees a trained dog pointing game, sees that the action is rewarded, he becomes conditioned to act in the same manner. If his trainer pats his head, the dog quickly comes to know that pointing is the correct response for certain smells and conditions.

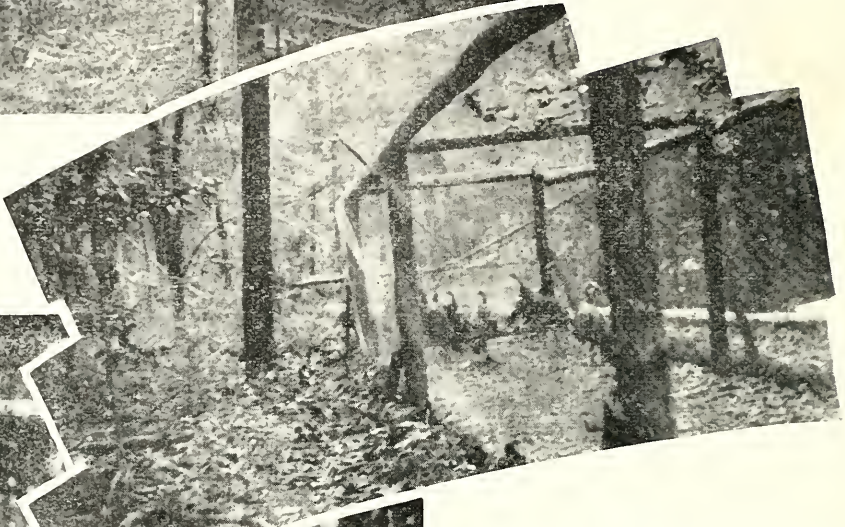
Later the dog is taught to differentiate between various scents and conditions. If he points a rabbit or a field mouse, the reward is withheld. Gradually the stimulating conditions of pointing are narrowed until the dog learns which scents to point and which to ignore. As the dog matures and lessons are continued, performance improves. Higher order conditioning follows—the scent of birds is asociated with the sight of birds; our dogs come to know, through trial and error, the pheasants will run and quail will set; they learn to a limited degree what the gun signifies, how to handle cripples, and to enjoy this exciting sport.

That pointing is so learned makes it clearly an acquired trait, not an instinct. Moreover, the fact that a bitch is a good pointer will not necessarily make her pups good pointers. Unquestionably the pups will have a better chance of making the grade—better, say, than the pups of a poorly hunting bitch. But the former pups will have the advantage of watching their well-trained mother perform, and will inherit, to some extent, the intelligence and learning capacity which enabled the mother to learn pointing so well. Her pointing skill will not be passed on through birth, however. The pups will not point game unless given the opportunity to learn and imitate.

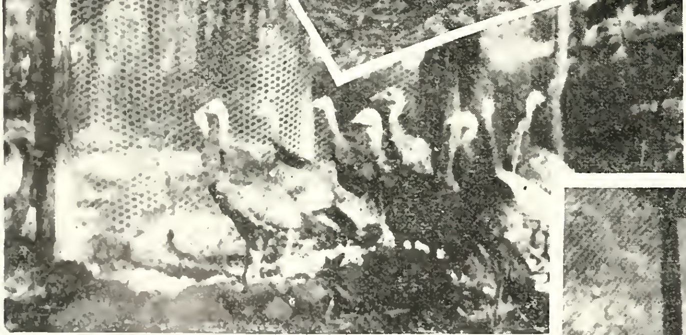
Another fallacy held by many hunters concerns the "instinct" of dogs to retrieve game. Most trainers, I believe, will agree that retrieving is anything but instinctive. It must be carefully developed. The dog

(Continued on Page 26)

Game management worker and his wife watching a new consignment of wild turkeys that are soon to be liberated in Louisiana.



One of the holding pens in which the new turkeys are placed and held until they become acclimated to Louisiana conditions.



(On left) Flock of young wild turkeys in a game preserve holding pen, where they are protected and fed until properly acclimated and big enough to shift for themselves when liberated.

Wild turkeys almost ready for liberation in a Louisiana Game Preserve, after they have been held in a deep forest pen for several weeks.

WILD TURKEYS FOR LOUISIANA

THE WILD TURKEY population of Louisiana is once more on the increase. Until Commissioner Ernest S. Clements, of the department of Wild Life and Fisheries, began his restocking of game and fish program, last year, the wild turkeys in this state had dwindled until there were no more than 1200 in the entire state, and these were mostly in two small areas in Madison and Tensas parishes.

With violators making heavy inroads on Louisiana's wild turkey flocks, and with little thought to their conservation and protection, the once great and abundant population of these birds had steadily dwindled, until there was real danger of their disappearance entirely as native game birds of the state; a sad commentary when it is considered that the habitat in many parts of the state is ideal for the propogation and rearing of turkeys.

When a survey revealed the true conditions Commissioner Clements began formulating a turkey program that within the next few years should restore sizeable flocks to areas in Louisiana that are suited to the protection and restoration of these birds. But just any kind of stock was not deemed satisfactory for restocking, and the supply of the genuine blue-headed wild turkey was amazingly scarce.

By Major James Brown

(Director, Fish and Game Division, Department of Wild Life and Fishries)

Finally we located a game farm in Pennsylvania where a fine strain of birds was available in small quantity, and as a result 50 turkeys were shipped here last winter, and liberated in the West Bay area of Allen parish. During the last two months 256 more have been bought in Pennsylvania and shipped to Louisiana, and 170 more are coming within the next month. Negotiations are underway now for the purchase of still another 100 birds.

But just buying and shipping in wild turkeys is the smallest part of the program for the restoration of this state's turkey population. Much preliminary work has to be done, even before the birds are brought in. Predator control units must spend weeks, and sometimes months in a preserve area, trapping out the bobcats, wolves and other predators, who would find the new turkeys a most welcome addition to their diet.

Game preserve areas must be obtained, properly identified as game refuges, and game management men installed to supervise their maintenance as preserves. In some instances food shrubs, wild grapes, and mast bearing trees must be planted to assure the new birds an adequate food supply as well as proper cover.

In furtherance of this part of the program game preserves have been established, or are in the process of being established, in the West Bay area of Allen parish; the Red Dirt preserve in the Kisatchie National forest, near Alexandria;

In Livingston and Union parishes, in the Evangeline and Catahoula divisions of the Kisatchie forest, and in Caldwell parish. In addition to these, refuges are being set aside in Beauregard parish, on the eastern side, where they can be protected; and on the tributaries of the Calcasieu river bottoms.

All of these areas have been found suitable wild turkey habitat, leaving the future of these transplanting birds almost solely up to the protection they are afforded; protection not only from the natural predators, but from the game hogs and wilful violators as well.

It must be said that the majority of residents in or around the areas where this restocking is being carried out, are sincerely in sympathy with the program and extremely determined to be of any assistance possible in the apprehension of violators. In every area they are thoroughly aware of the fate of game and fish where violations are condoned, and in almost every instance their game and fish have become extinct, or nearly so, because of the apathy shown toward illegal hunting and fishing. New wild life clubs have been formed or old, dormant ones reactivated, in every one of these areas, and the sportsmen and true conservationists have been loud in their expressions of approval of Commissioner Clements' efforts to restore their natural hunting and fishing.

Holding pens have been built in each of these liberation areas, usually deep in the forest, where the surrounding habitat is suitable. These pens varying in size from 20 to 30 feet in width, and a hundred or more feet in length, are of stout chicken wire, high enough to keep the young birds from flying out. Roosts are built in one end, and here the transplanted birds are held for about three weeks, fed daily and watched carefully by a game management man in charge. In this manner they become acclimated to their new home, and are protected from predators. When they have become old enough, and seasoned enough in their new surroundings, they are turned loose and allowed to roam at will in their wild forest area, but still under the watchful eyes of the game management experts.

Reports from other states, where this method is being used, indicate that it doesn't take the birds long to go wild entirely, and the mortality from predator is extremely small.

Perhaps you have heard comment from some sections of the state that others were getting the lion's share of the new turkeys and deer, that were being brought in for restocking. In choosing areas where these transplantings of game were to be made, it was necessary to select areas where they were assured of proper habital and protection, both by our refuge program and also by the people of the parishes.

One of the greatest areas of natural habitat for deer and turkeys, and one that needed replenishment most, was the Calcasieu river territory, along with its tributaries, extending from south of Alexandria to Lake Charles.

In this area is the West Bay Refuge, in Allen parish and the adjoining parishes, and here the habitat is almost perfect for both deer and turkeys. It is only natural, therefore, that here the majority amount of restocking should be done. As the newly installed game birds and animals increase naturally, they would overflow into surrounding areas and the entire countryside in those sections would eventually be restocked. As this restoration of game program is not solely a one year, or a one decade plan, this eventual overflow is one

(Continued on Page 23)

Recently completed public pier, 150 feet long, built under the auspices of the DeSoto Parish Wild Life Association, on the new Bayou Pierre State Game and Fish preserve, and named the "Lee-Burgess" landing in honor of the late Federal Judge, Elmo P. Lee, and the late Hal Burgess, Sr., both of whom were prominent in working for the creation of the preserve. View on right is on Smithport Lake, near Mansfield, La., a part of the new State Game and Fish preserve, and another completed project of the State Department of Wild Life and Fisheries.

Arms and ★ ★ ★ ★ Ammunition

This stuff called shot—what you ought to know about the various kinds and sizes in order to get the best results

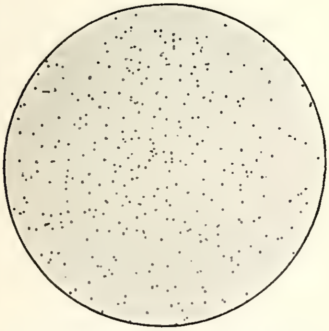
By Jack O'Connor

(Editor, Outdoor Life Magazine)

WHEN I WAS a lad it was the practice for my friends and me to carry, whenever we went duck hunting, a few shells loaded with No. 2 shot in a separate pocket. Then, when an especially long shot showed up, we would remove the No. 4's or No. 6's from our guns and fire a salute with the No. 2's. Now and then we actually killed a bird with the big shot, often at a fantastic distance. I can still remember a mallard drake that I must have downed at from 80 to 90 yds. One pellet had cracked him squarely in the head.

Our average on these long shots with No. 2's was perhaps one bird in 20 or 25 shots, and for a long time we humbly shouldered the blame, thinking we had not led correctly. Then one day, in a burst of curiosity, we did some patterning at 75 yds. with our No. 2's and we found that any duck we chanced to kill was a very unlucky bird indeed. At that distance a duck might possibly be hit with a shot or two, but the patterns we got were so thin that a stork carrying quintuplets could fly through them time and again without a scratch.

Most hunters do not bother their pretty heads about shot, except to assume that the loading companies put some in the shells they buy. I doubt if more than one hunter in five ever patterns his gun on paper. The others may take an occasional crack at a tomato can, and if it shows some holes they are happy. Actually, patterning shotguns is a chore. Shooting, then encircling the densest part of the pattern and counting the holes is a time-consuming job, and the wind has a way of coming along and blowing down the pattern sheets. Nevertheless, patterning is to the shotgun what sighting in is to the rifle, and the man who does not spend some time patterning doesn't know much about his gun.



Ideal shot distribution: no big holes, no bunched shot. You should get such a pattern at 25 yd. with improved-cylinder boring; at from 30 to 35 yd. with modified choke; at 40 yd. with a full choke

Because so few gunners ever use a smoothbore on anything unless it has hair or feathers on it, the whole subject of shot has a good deal of folklore connected with it. One chap I know hunts grouse with No. 4's and claims the big pellets smash through brush and twigs better than any smaller ones. Another uses No. 9's on grouse and claims the smaller pellets, because there are more of them, are most likely to get through the holes in the foliage. Both explanations sound logical, and both methods kill grouse. So far as I know, neither man has ever put up paper behind some foliage to find out if he's right.

Shot is made of lead because lead is heavy and fairly cheap. It is also soft and does not mar the relatively soft steel of shotgun barrels. Now and then someone removes the shot from a shell and reloads with steel air-rifle shot when he thinks he wants larger shot than is locally available. For two reasons this is a sour idea. For one thing the steel pellets are less dense (weigh less for their size) than lead and lose their velocity more rapidly. For another, they are hard and often, able to score the barrel badly.

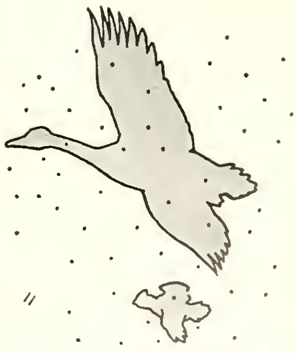
"Soft" or "drop" shot is now obsolete. It was pure lead with a bit of arsenic added. Formerly many hunters, particularly quail hunters in the South swore by it, as they felt that it expanded like an expanding bullet when it struck the bird and hence had greater killing power. Most experts believe this is an old wives tale. It is true that an examination of a bird killed with drop shot will show a high percentage of deformed or upset pellets, but they were probably deformed by the forcing cone of the chamber or by the cone of the choke and **not** after they struck the bird. Drop shot throws a wider pattern because of the high percentage of deformed pellets, and hence it may be somewhat easier to hit with; but it patterns less reliably than harder shot and in the long run probably lets a higher proportion of cripples get away.

Only Hard Shot is Now Made

"Chilled" or "hard" shot is hardened by the addition of antimony. Because it is harder, such shot does not give so high a percentage of deformed pellets and hence throws better and more even patterns. It also leads the barrel less, and produces a shorter shot string because of less shot deformity. Chilled shot is now standard.

Still harder, still less liable both to deformation and to the leading of the barrel, is copperized or copper-plated shot, which is used in some premium loads.

Shot is manufactured in a tower of considerable height by pouring molten alloyed lead through a perforated "shower pan" with uniform holes whose size depends on the size of shot wanted. The falling trickles of lead form into spheres which are cooled by striking water below. Then the shot is sent down a series of inclined planes. The round pellets run true, but the lopsided ones run cockeyed and fall off at



Why big shot can be used on big birds. Here is a No. 4 shot pattern at 45 yd. It would blast a large duck or a small goose but might merely feather a quail

the side, to be collected, remelted, and given another chance.

"Bird shot" was formerly manufactured in all sizes from No. 12 or "dust" (which, I believe, is the size still loaded in .22 shot shells) through No. 10 (which many fancied for snipe) to No. 1. Through the course of the years, though, shotgun loads (combination of sizes and kinds of shot and amounts and kinds of powder in various guages) have been trimmed down from literally thousands to less than 150, and the trimming has eliminated not only the old soft shot but many odd sizes. No. 9, the smallest size currently manufactured for regular gauges, is used in skeet. From then on the list goes No. 8, No. 7½, No. 7, No. 6, No. 5, No. 4, No. 2, and BB. BB shot is .18 in. in diameter. Here are some pertinent data on the other sizes.

Shot Size	Diam. in Inches	No. Chilled Pellets 1 oz.	1⅛ oz.	1¼ oz.
No. 2	.15	88	99	110
No. 4	.13	136	153	170
No. 5	.12	172	193	215
No. 6	.11	223	251	279
No. 7	.10	299	336	374
No. 7½	.095	345	388	431
No. 8	.09	409	460	511
No. 9	.08	585	658	731

In case you don't have the table at hand, here's an easy formula for finding the actual size of shot: Subtract the size number from 17, and you'll get the pellet diameter as measured in hundredths of an inch.

Maximum and Standard Charges

As for the various charges 1 oz. is maximum for the 20 gauge, of course, and "standard" for the 16 gauge. The 1⅛-oz. load is maximum for the 16 gauge and "standard" for the 12 gauge. The 1¼ oz. load is maximum for the 12 gauge load in 2¾-in. cases (Super-X, Nitro Express, Super Speed, and the like).

The actual number of pellets may vary a bit, depending on the make of shot, but the table given is plenty good enough for the shooter to use in figuring pattern percentages. Suppose a sharp man with a pencil shoots his favorite gas pipe at 40 yds., then draws a 30-in. circle to enclose the largest possible number of holes, and counts 215. He has used a load containing 1¼ oz. of No. 7½, which contains presumably about 430 pellets. By spending a few minutes of hard labor and by invoking the aid of the wife and young and the cop on the corner, he wil be able to deduce that he has got a 50 percent or improved-cylinder pattern.

If he had counted 323 holes, he would eventually determine that he had obtained a good full-choke pattern of about 75 percent.

Everyone should pattern his shotgun with different combinations of shot size and powder charge, by the way, since for no good reason known to man, particular guns like particular shot sizes. For example, I have a 20 gauge Ithaca double on the rack bored improved cylinder (right) and modified (left). For some reason that doggoned right barrel will pattern one certain brand of trap loads from 65 to 70 percent, or what is called improved modified, instead of throwing an improved-cylinder pattern of around 50 per cent.

Recently I had a letter from a chap who, using a skeet gun of a certain make and another brand of trap loads, was getting patterns of 80 percent. That doesn't seem right, but that's how the figures he sent me turned out. The duck shooter may find that his gun will give denser patterns with No. 5 shot than with No. 6, or vice versa. It may shoot No. 4's well and then again it may not.

One season my wife shot an open-bored 16 gauge, with high-velocity shells containing 1⅛ oz. of No. 7½, on quail. Too late she found that at 30 yds. the patterns thrown by the right barrel had holes right in the middle you could throw Mickey Rooney through. The better she held, the more certain she was to miss or merely feather her bird. A shift to the trap load with No. 8 shot cured it.

Almost any ammunition-company catalogue will contain a table of shot-size recommendations like the following, which I have swiped in toto from the Western Ammunition Handbook:

For Upland Game	Shot Sizes
Snipe, woodcock, rails, quail in early season, and small shore birds	8 or 9
Doves quail in late season, large shore birds, and small winged pests	7, 7½, or 8
Pheasants, prairie chickens, grouse, rabbits, squirrels	4, 5, 6, or 7
Turkeys and large furred vermin	BB, 2, or 4
For Wildfowl	
Ducks over decoys	5 or 6
All other duck shooting	4
Geese	BB, 2, or 4
For Trapshooting	
16-yd. singles and first barrel of doubles	7½ or 8
Second barrel of doubles and handicap targets	7½ or 8
For Skeet	
For any skeet shooting	9

Many years of experience by many smart people have gone into the compilation of such lists, and most gunners will find no fault with them. However,

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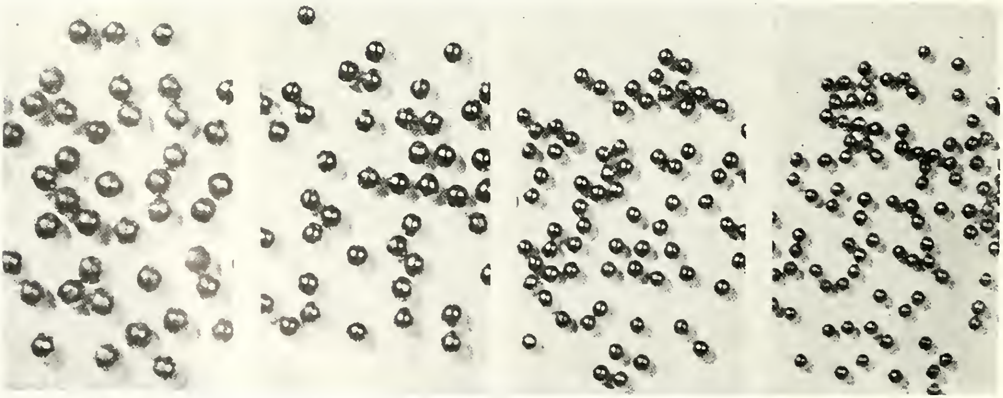


Common shot sizes, photographed "big as life." Left to right: No. 2, for geese, turkeys; No. 4, for pass-shooting on waterfowl; No. 7½, for upland hunting, decoyed ducks, and traps; No. 9, for skeet and for quail, doves, and snipe at moderate ranges

ANNUAL SHRIMP FESTIVAL

By Mel Washburn

ORIGINATED as a religious ceremony, the blessing of the shrimp fleet at Morgan City has become an annual festival of many brilliant facets, embodying pageantry on land and water, a ceremonial rite on Berwick Bay, a colorful coronation of a young king and queen, a street pageant of beauty, three days of hospitable conclave and withal a festive mood that enthralls thousands of visitors.

In addition to the bessing of the shrimp fleet this year, the three-day festival featured speed boat races, excursions on shrimp boats, luxurious yachts and other craft that made the sun-dappled Atchafalaya river a hive of gaily decorated boats of every description.

When the Rev. Father Jules Toups, pastor of the Sacred Heart church of Morgan City, assisted by the Rev. Father John Barrios, on the shrimp trawler "Lucky Star," cruised slowly around Berwick Bay on Sunday morning, September 18, with the Rev. Father Toups officiating at the blessing as each boat was passed, the peak of the three-day festival was reached. The gay throng, packed onto the hundreds of boats and along the shore, suddenly stilled, as the ceremonial cortege approached, stood in devout silence as the blessing was received, and resumed their gay mood as the priests' craft journeyed on around the bay.

Such a festival as the annual Morgan City Shrimp Festival, would be impossible elsewhere. Here is the biggest concentration of shrimp trawlers . . . here is the home port of most of them . . . and here in the hospitality that has made this yearly ceremonial one of national prominence.

Although the blessing of the fleet is a Sunday morning rite, the Shrimp Festival really begins on the previous Friday, and for three days there are athletic contests, football games, fireworks displays at night, speed boat races on the wide reaches of Berwick Bay, a parade in which the Shrimp Queen and her procession of Princesses enhance beautifully decorated floats on Sunday afternoon, and a Coronation Ball over which the Queen reigns on Saturday night.

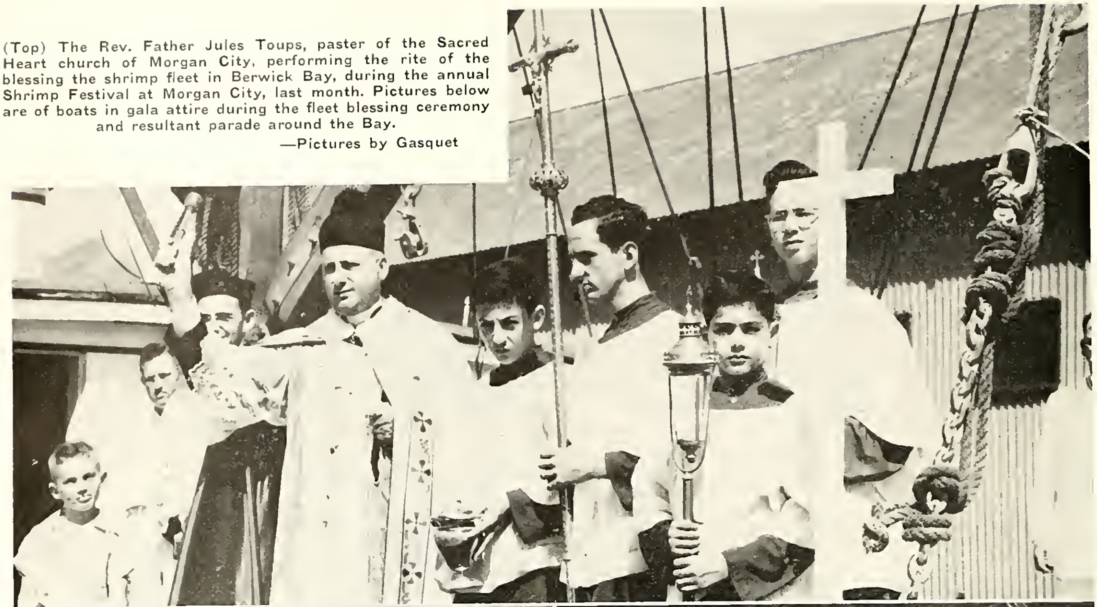
And so attractive has this unusual festival become that the Southern Division of the Louisiana Press Association, has made it the date and host city for their annual convention, with informal dinners, a banquet, and business meetings on Friday night and Saturday, in conjunction with the Festival. So popular have these Morgan City conventions become that there are as many press representatives from North Louisiana as there are from the Southern division.

Perhaps the gracious hospitality of Charley King, publisher of the Morgan City Review, a tireless worker for the success each year of the Shrimp Festival, and

(Continued on Page 26)

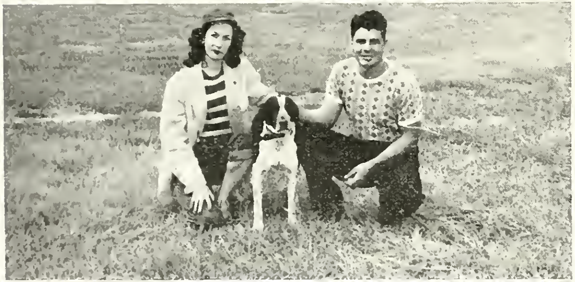
(Top) The Rev. Father Jules Toups, paster of the Sacred Heart church of Morgan City, performing the rite of the blessing the shrimp fleet in Berwick Bay, during the annual Shrimp Festival at Morgan City, last month. Pictures below are of boats in gala attire during the fleet blessing ceremony and resultant parade around the Bay.

—Pictures by Gasquet



(Top—left) Royalty at the Morgan City Shrimp Festival. King Peter Guarisco crowing Queen Jackie Plessala, at the Coronation Ball during the festival. (Top-right) Mrs. Roland T. Huson, wife of the publisher of the Jonesville Booster, Jonesville, La., explaining to her little daughter, the rite of the blessing of the shrimp fleet. (Left—center) Mrs. Sam Reeks, wife of the publisher of the Jefferson Parish Times, and Mrs. Lilla Spiva (center) publisher of the Minden Herald and Webster Parish Review, with a group of ladies on the Press boat during the blessing of the fleet. (Bottom—left) A flotilla of shrimp boats in port at Morgan City, ready for the fleet blessing.

—Photos by Gasquet and Mel Washburn



Founders of the Ring-Tailed Coon Hunters Association of Louisiana, at Arcadia, La. Left to right they are: Guy Woodard, Herbert N. Davis, Ben C. Craighead, Will Storey, Sidney Lee Ray, Kenneth Holyfield, and James M. Lamkin, Jr. In the center photo are Mr. and Mrs. N. W. Culbertson and their favorite 'coon dog. Mr. Culbertson is vice-president of the 'Coon Hunters association. In the lower picture, left to right, are Hon. Lois Wimberly, Bienville Parish representative and chairman of the Highway Commission, with James M. Lamkin, Jr., (speaking into the "mike") and Guy Woodard, official announcer for the affair.

RING-TAILED COON HUNTERS

By Jimmie P. Maxwell

ON October 23, 1947, a small group of coon hunters got together in Arcadia, Louisiana, and founded what is destined to become one of North Louisiana's largest sportsmens organizations. This organization has been chartered as the Ring-Tailed Coon Hunters' Association of Louisiana, with headquarters at Arcadia.

The founding members of the association were James M. Lamkin, Jr., Ben G. Craighead, Charles Nickleson, Herbert N. Davis, Bill Patterson, Ray Davis, Will Storey, James Thomas Storey, Kenneth Holyfield, Sydney Lee Ray, and Guy Woodard.

The interest and enthusiasm in the possibilities of the association was such, that on December 31, 1947, after the founding members had enjoyed a coon barbecue supper, the first officers elected were as

(Continued on Page 26)

THE WHITE-TAILED DEER

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By James Nelson Gowanloch

Bucks, evidently because of their greater strength, did not, like does and fawns, leave the storm water for dry land shelter. This photograph shows the only two bucks that were photographed, and unlike their families, they departed into the inundated swamp.

THE largest and most valuable of our game mammals in the eastern United States, the white-tailed deer, also called the Virginia deer, adapts itself with surprising readiness to the proximity of man and when properly protected, its powers of increase (the species is polygamous and the does, after their first single young, produce twins) permit them to build up their numbers rapidly where protection is afforded.

The white-tailed deer carries its name on the front side of its seven-inch tail. This white flag flashed when deer, tail up, flees in fear, is about all that many people ever see of the white-tailed deer.

Captain John Smith (he knew Pocahontas) thought that the "deare" he found in Virginia were "nothing different from ours." He was wrong. The fallow deer of England was a quite different species.

Thomas Hariot, who examined Virginia in 1584, made the wise observation that, "Deare in some places there are great store: neere unto the sea-coast they are of the ordinarie bignes as ours in England, and some lesse: but further up into the countrye where there is better feed, they are greater: they differ from our onely in this, their tailes are longer, and the snages of their hornes looke backward."

Deer meant food, and even in that remote day, there was enacted the first of all American laws to protect large game animals when in 1648, Rhode Island, the smallest state (with the longest name), closed the deer season from May 1st to November 1st. That was three hundred and one years ago. Connecticut and Massachusetts quickly followed. One hundred years spent themselves and the white-tail still remained "as you were," but when came 1800, deer were rare or gone over much of New England. The Deep South is another story.

Deer management affords one of the most striking examples of success in caring for the interests of the hunter. Where, as in Pennsylvania, once abundant, the white-tail became "sparsely scattered or locally exterminated," Louisiana's Commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries, Ernest S. Clements, states as a result of his survey last month of Pennsylvania game resources, that the present estimate of white-tailed deer population in Pennsylvania is 2,000,000.

When it became apparent that the differential kill of the bucks upset the biological balance, Pennsylvania decreed a one-day doe kill, when 40,000 does were shot. This is a sharply exaggerated example of how extreme hunter control can upset a natural pattern.

Cahalane recently estimated that there are probably four and one-quarter million white-tailed deer still surviving in the United States.

Some of the early colonial hunting records are of high interest, reflecting the once great abundance of white-tail. Thus, in the valley of Virginia, James Todd, most remarkable hunter, was recorded as having killed with a single muzzle loading rifle, up to the year 1860, over 2700 deer.

Deer belong to a group of animals known as the even-toed, hoofed mammals (**Artiodactyla**), all of which walk on the third and fourth toes, other toes being reduced or lost, These include deer, bison, domestic cattle, goats and pigs.

Because of their great activity and dramatic appearance, deer usually appear much larger than they actually are. Deer decidedly afford a general public, as well as a hunting pleasure, since they are a highly memorable part of contacts with their habitat.

Normally, deer seem to range over little area, sometimes no more than a total of one-half square mile.

The period of gestation is stated to be two hundred and five to two hundred and twelve days (six months, three weeks and four days to seven months and two days).

It is generally assumed that does bearing young for the first time produce a single fawn, and thereafter twins are the general rule and occasionally a doe will give birth to triplets.

Fawns, when born, weigh only four or five pounds, and are so frail that they travel during the first twenty-five days of their lives no more than thirty feet from where they were born. Hidden by the mother during this pitiful period, they are fed by her a dozen times daily and

Driven to high land by storm high water, these fawns wistfully seek the comfort and protection of the doe, whose ears will indicate that she is somewhat overwhelmed at such a family. Photograph by James Edouard Morgan.

are additionally protected in their hiding place by the fact that they have a dappled camouflage color, the white spots breaking up the pattern against the dappled background of vegetation. Protectively, also, the fawns, unlike their parents, possess no strong odor and thus do not attract enemies.

Deer antlers, borne only by the male, are true bone and not horn. Under exceptional conditions of glandular disturbances, does may also produce horns. During the growing season, the antlers are covered with a soft, plush-like "velvet", the blood supply of which supplies the growing antlers. When the growth is complete, the blood supply ceases, the "velvet" dies, peels off, and the bony core remains. Through an extra-ordinary and incisive operation, certain cells in the blood stream of the deer digest off at the appropriate time, the base of the antlers which change, then fall, the scar being covered over with a new skin from which, the following spring, a new antler develops.

How much effort game authorities are willing to expend in securing deer is best exemplified by the fact that twenty-five white-tailed deer trapped in Texas were trucked 2000 miles to Miami, Florida, and then flown 1100 miles to the Virgin Islands. Censusing deer has been, in Louisiana, a particularly difficult problem because of the nature of ground and cover. A number of southeastern states have set up areas as deer preserves from which growing populations can expand to surrounding territories. Commissioner E. S. Clements, by negotation with Texas, was able to secure and release in Louisiana 50 deer for this purpose.

Louisiana has not suffered from the severe over-population starvation problems that white-tailed and other deer species have been faced in Northern states. There over browsing has led to the wiping out of deer in whole areas due to failure of food supply, particularly under winter conditions. Generally, deer movement closely parallels livestock movement under these conditions.

Probably the best compact discussion of the voice of the white-tail is that by Cahalane, who states:

"The fawns that I have handled have kept silent, unless an accidental bump or rough squeeze brought forth a short bleat. However, very young twins have been heard to "converse" in calls like the "mew" of the cat bird. Their cries of distress are much shorter and louder. Adult deer are usually voiceless except in extreme terror. I have heard a deer shriek with a loud, hoarse, high-pitched voice when chased by coyotes, but ordinarily it will save its breath for running. I also once heard a deer scoldng very loudly as though in pain when he trotted by. Now and then a doe may bleat for lost fawns. Occasionally a deer will signal by blowing violently through the nostrils. From personal experience, I think it does this at times to startle suspicious-looking objects into moving and so identifying themselves."

White-tailed deer apparently live ten to fifteen years, observations on captive animals corroborating this. Studies of deer that have been tagged as fawns may give us much more valuable information.

A deer taken near Baton Rouge has been recorded with a dressed weight of three hundred and ten pounds.

Average dressed weights for the northern tier of states, related to points, although not necessarily applicable (since our southern deer run much smaller in size) are, however, of interest, and as follows: 2 points—121 pounds, 4 points—138.5 pounds, 6 points—141 pounds, 8 points—161 pounds, 10 points—186.5 pounds, 12 points—200 pounds and 13 points—245 pounds.

The size of deer, like the size of fish, is always a matter of great interest and great controversy. The writer has endeavored to secure records on the top size of the white-tailed deer. Southern white-tails are definitely smaller than the Northern races. Arthur Van Pelt, competent observer of Louisiana wildlife for more years than he declares he is willing to admit, was present at the weighing of the buck taken between Michaud and Bayou Thomas three-quarters of a mile from the Louisville and Nashville tracks about 1917. This animal, largest he had seen in forty years, weighed three hundred and four pounds. Mr. Van Pelt informs me that another deer taken in the Chacahoula Swamp, twelve points, head now owned by Kader Cocke, weighed approximately three hundred pounds and was the largest, local hunters stated, they had ever seen.

The heaviest white-tailed buck on authenticated records shot in New York weighed three hundred and eighty-eight pounds live weight. Scott reported a buck shot near Hayward, Wisconsin (and this was a white-tailed) that "hog-dressed" weighed three hundred and eighty-six pounds and had a calculated weight of the almost unbelievable figure of four hundred and ninety-one pounds.

Henry Sevier of Tallulah, who, with Sheriff Elliott Coleman, certainly knows as much as anyone about hunting in northern Louisiana, has provided the writer with

(Continued on Page 24)

NEW EGRET REFUGE NEAR EUNICE GETS THOUSANDS DAILY

By Mary Alice Fontenot

That it is possible to re-establish bird and game life in areas where they had virtually become extinct, is again proved by a new natural rookery for egrets on the McManus farm, on the Crowley road near Eunice, La.

Just before dusk each evening thousands upon thousands of snowy egrets begin winging their way to the row of dead trees bordering the lake on the Shelby McManus-Bill Gillett farm south of town.

Beginning about a half-hour before sundown, an observer on the farm may see files of winged creatures, converging on the farm from all directions. They are of all sizes, some as small as marsh hens, others with an impressive wingspread of several feet. They fly at different levels, singly and by groups of from several to a dozen or more, and each bird knows exactly where he is headed.

Lillian Stokes, secretary, Louisiana State University, with the nine bass she caught in False River, trolling with a green shore midget river runt.

Just about five thirty these Fall evenings the dead trees along the lake look like a gigantic cotton boll, so thick are the egrets in their branches. From a distance one may hear the weird cries the birds make as they settle in the trees for the night. The rustle of thousands of wings resemble the lapping of waves on the seashore. After dark, one may still hear the rustle of wings and softer cackles as the cranes settle down for the night.

This is the third year the egrets have chosen to roost in this particular spot, although they have been known to frequent the vicinity for ten or more years. Dolan Sittig, tenant on the farm, says that he believes the birds to be more numerous this year than ever before, due perhaps to the fact that the 200-acre farm is posted and Mr. McManus has given orders that a sharp watch be kept for poachers.

The egret is, of course, a non-game migratory bird, and anyone caught even looking like he wanted to shoot one might get in trougle with the federal game agents. The late "M'Sieu Ned" McIlhenny, the famed bird lover of Avery's Island, who gave the nation its first bird sanctuary, is credited with the preservation of this particular species. At one time the egret was near extinction, owing to the fact that its plumage was much in demand for feminine ornamentation. Egret plumes, which are found on the birds only at mating time, sold at a dollar apiece, and with each adult egret sprouting 20 on each shoulder, the $40 birds provided a nice income for marshland hunters.

Mr. McIlhenny, in his desire to preserve the bird-life of Louisiana, trapped the almost-extinct egrets in cages on Avery's Island, fed and cared for them during the summer, and released them when cool weather came and it was time for the annual migration to the South. Each summer the herons returned, and each year brought more birds with them to this sanctuary. Mr. McManus's summer guests are no doubt offsprings of the original eight trapped by Mr. McIlhenny more than 50 years ago.

Dudley Berwick recalls that the herons have been summer visitors to this vicinity for ten years or more. At one time, Mr. Berwick says, the birds were quite numerous near the old Willowglen dairy farm on the old Basile road.

The egrets come to this section early in the summer. They can be seen in the rice fields along any highway, their slender long necks craned above the uncut grain. Earlier in the year, they stand with their long necks in the flooded rice fields, feeding on crawfish and tadpoles. Usually with the first cool breezes from the North, they take off on their long flight across the Gulf of Mexico, not to return until the following summer.

Mrs. Lucille Beasley, of Grayson, La., with a 14-pound catfish she caught in the Ouachita river.

Among the many thousands of white egrets at the McManus farm are a number other birds, including summer ducks, blue hens, water turkey, crooked bill crane and gros-beck, Mr. McManus said. "Many people drive out here in the summer after sundown to see them roost in the trees," Mr. McManus continued.

The farm is located across the highway from the Mayflower dairy on the Crowley road. Some years ago Mr. McManus and Mr. Gillett had a small pond dredged, and it now forms an artificial lake about a mile in length, which they have stocked with fish. It is along this lake that the birds find their summer lodgings.

The Kavirondo Crane is one of the most beautiful birds in the world. It has a pearl-gray, black and brown body, a velvet-black head with white and red cheeks and an amber crest.

The California Condor has a wingspread of eleven feet, weighs twenty-five pounds and is the largest bird of prey in the United States.

Dam built by beaver on small stream.

Roy Lauzervich breaking dam in order to place beaver trap.

Placing trap in broken dam. Then the beaver comes to rebuild the dam and is caught in the trap.

Trapping Beaver Job For Experts

TRAPPING the Louisiana beaver is at best a hit or miss proposition. Joe Miller, head of the predator control unit of the department of Wild Life and Fisheries, with an assistant, Roy Lauzervich, hopes to live-trap 25 or more of these protected animals for redistribution in other parts of the state, or for exchange in a "good neighbor" gesture with Texas, but at the present time they have been able to capture only four of these biggest of all rodents.

Louisiana's beaver population has dwindled until there are probably no more than 2,000 in the entire state, and with few exceptions these are to be found in the Florida parishes, comprised of East Feliciana, St. Helena, Tangipahoa, East Baton Rouge and Livingston. There may be a few more beaver in Washington and St. Tammany parishes, but they have not been reported recently.

Using a Bailey aluminum live beaver trap, Miller and Lauzervich, have set their traps repeatedly, only to have to move them again, when the "beaver sign" failed to produce results. These predator control men have, however, found indications that illegal hunters have been preying on beaver, presumably for their meat, despite the fact that the season on beaver is closed permanently and has been for some years, in an effort to re-establish the beaver population.

Texas has hopes of getting a few Louisiana beaver to start a new strain in that state, and as Louisiana has been negotiating for Texas deer to add to the herds in this state, a reciprocal plan may be worked out, taking beaver here only where they have become detrimental to certain areas, and where it is certain their removal will benefit instead of hindering the future restoration of beaver colonies.

Accompanying pictures, taken of Mr. Miller and Mr. Lauzervich, show how the live trapping is effected.

As early as the 17th century, the search for fur, principally that of the beaver, was the greatest single urge that sent white men into the most remote corners of unexplored America. From Louisiana north to the frozen tundra of Canada and Alaska, trappers found beavers by the thousands. The beaver pelt rapidly became the basis of value, not only of other skins, but of all commodities and articles. A beaver skin would buy a pound of tobacco, a one-pound kettle, four pounds of shot, or one large and one small hatchet in the posts of the Hudson's Bay company during 1670. It took six beavers to purchase a laced coat, and 12 fine ones to acquire a long rifle. Some of the most fabulous fortunes of the United States and Canada, such as the Astor millions, were found on this barter.

Since that time the beaver has taken its place on the coat of arms of the Dominion of Canada, and its name given to hundreds, and perhaps thousands of places from counties and towns to meadows, mountains, lakes and streams.

Until about 1840 most beaver pelts went into the manufacture of "high silk" hats. Fur coats and accessories took the rest. The total drain on the beaver population was enormous. Between 1853 and 1877 the Hudson's Bay company alone sold almost three million beaver skins on the London market. Trappers pursued the animals into the most distant wildernesses, so that in most of the United States they became extremely rare or entirely extinct. Given the advantage of protection, however, beavers have again become abundant in some regions, and their population in Louisiana has been on the increase for the last decade.

In some parts of the state they have become numerous enough to have become an agricultural liability. When this occurs the beavers are live trapped and moved to sparsely settled regions, where they make reservoirs of water that prevent erosion and provide water facilities during drouths for grazing livestock as well as wildlife.

There are nearly 500 species of humming birds and they are found only in the New World. They are tropical but in warm weather, and the season of flowers, they migrate as far north as Alaska, and as far south as Patagonia. Our country makes an acceptable summer home for about sixteen species.

The horse is one of the oldest existing mammals on earth today while man is the youngest.

A TOAST

If I were rich I'd build a shrine
In honor of a friend of mine
Who sees me through when others fail,
Though he's so thin, so meek and frail.

When plugs and spinners and the like
All let me down without a strike,
I turn to him and he responds
In rivers, lakes and streams and ponds.

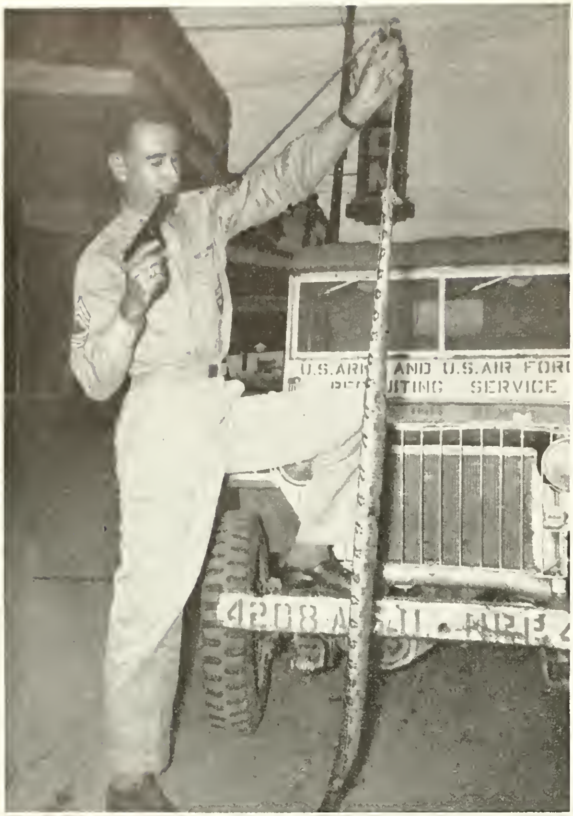
He does his job and does it well,
He sends me home with tales to tell
And fish to show—what if they're small?
That's better than no fish at all!

So drink a toast, long overdue,
To someone who helps me . . . and you:
"May he live long and always squirm.
"All hail our friend, the angleworm!"

—Arthur Corso

Bringing the beaver out of the water in the trap, alive and in good condition.

Closeup of beaver in trap and after it has been taken out by trapper to be shipped to his new home on the Red Dirt Refuge at Natchitoches, La.
—Photos by Joe Miller

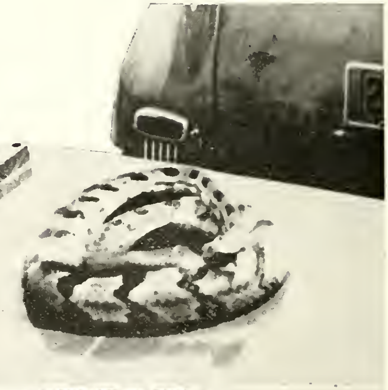


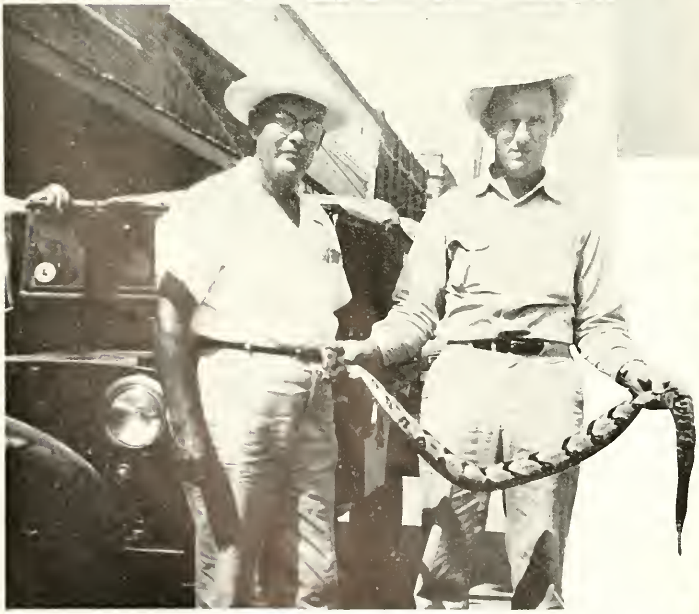
This recruiting officer gets more than recruits. Here he is with a rattlesnake six feet long, killed in Franklin Park.

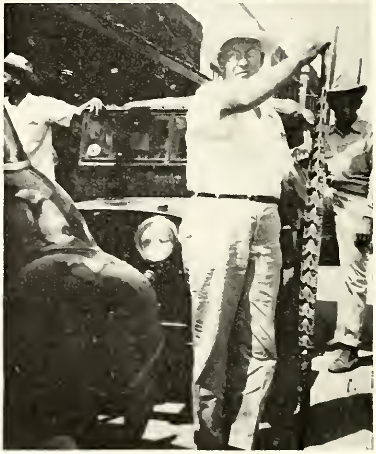
(Bottom—left) Joe Miller (left) supervisor of the Predator Control Unit of the state department of Wild Life and Fisheries, and Edwin Jones, State trooper, with a huge rattlesnake they killed in Tensas parish.

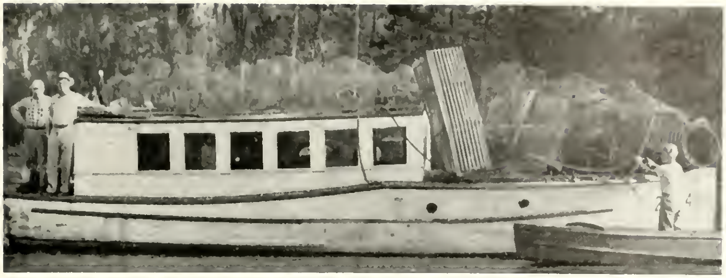
(Center—right) Close-up of a five-and-a-half-foot rattler, with eleven rattles.

(Bottom—right) Joe Miller proving his predator control group gets as many predator snakes as they do wolves, bobcats, and other predatory animals. Here he is holding another huge rattler killed while on patrol.









Eighty-five fish traps seized and destroyed by game wardens of the state department of Wild Life and Fisheries on a recent patrol up the Amite river. Six violators were arrested and 50 pounds of catfish seized as well as the nets and several hundred game fish were liberated. Agents Sanders, Bates, Hyde, Hebert, Reno and Smith made the raids.

THE SWIMMING OF FISHES . . .

(Continued from Page 6)

ton a hydrostatic organ by whch the fish keeps its specific gravity right and its body trim. When injury or disease affects this function, the fish, as we've all seen, promptly floats belly up. A fish's swim bladder also may serve as a resonating organ, as in the Croaker and Gaspergou. Remove the swim bladder, the Croaker ceases croaking. Substitute an artificial rubber swim bladder, the sound resumes.

Fish move their bodies from side to side except in such specialized species as the Rays and Mantas, while the Porpoises and Whales, which are not fishes but are mammals (the Cetacea) and originated from ancestors that once lived on the land, move their bodies up and down, the better to secure the necessary air they breathe. Once land animals, they actually are in many ways more efficient swimmers than the fishes that never left the water.

The leaping of fishes is a spectacular form of locomotion. Examples are the Mullet, the Tarpon, the Leaping Shark and the Manta. Most fishes jump to escape enemies, to endeavor to rid themselves of external parasites or to endeavor to shake out hooks. Some of these leaps are extraordinary. A four ton Manta, or Devilfish, as they often call it, can turn a complete somersalt in the air! Needle Fish, bad bait stealers here in Louisiana, apparently leap for fun since they will explore almost any floating object to discover if it is stable enough and not too high and they then will rapidly jump it out of pure devilment. A stick dropped into a school of Needle Fish will almost immediately start them leaping. Leaping becomes the most highly specialized as a means of escape from enemies in the flying fishes that are actually gliders and never flap their wings. The flying fish first hydroplanes its body above the water, sculls rapidly along the surface using the elongated lower lobe of its caudal fin, taxis up to a speed of thirty-five miles an hour, then, becoming airborne, glides at the same speed for twenty seconds, thirty seconds or (our longest record) forty-two seconds, distances that sometimes much exceed one-eighth of a mile.

Some fish swim in strange positions. The Seahorse swims only vertically and is most unfishlike in shape, but the Shrimp Fish, **Aeoliscus**, a "fish-shaped" fish of the Indian Ocean, also always swims straight up. Strangest of all is an African fish, **Synodontis batensoda**, which always swims upside down and was even so depicted by the Egyptians in ancient tombs of Pharoahs.

The speed of swimming is a matter of much discussion. Here are some figures in miles an hour, with some comparisons with other water speeds: Carp—0.9 of a mile; Bream—1 mile and a half; man—World's Record—Nakama of the United States of America, 1942, free style, 2.8 miles an hour; the United States Naval Corsair submarines (the class came out in 1943)—9 and 1/5 miles and hour submerged and 23 miles an hour surfaced; big Sea Mackerel, cruising—30 miles an hour; flying fish at take off and airborne—35 miles an hour; the Normandie—35.9 miles an hour; the Lexington 36.9 miles an hour. Sharks have been known to pace fast ocean liners. Tuna and Swordfish (both have been taken in Louisiana) have been clocked at 60 miles an hour, fastest of all fishes. Contrast with this the pitiful embarrassment of the Seahorse which, swimming by vibrating his fins so fast that the eye cannot follow their movements and swimming at top speed, takes all of five minutes to cross an ordinary bathtub.

Illustrative of the driving power of the fishes' forward motion is the fact that the Swordfish (a 400 to 600 pound species), of which we have some Louisiana records and with which I was quite familiar on the Nova Scotian coast, has, on a number of occasions, been known to drive its sword completely through two inches of solid planking and in some cases has actually driven its sword completely through both sides of a fishing dory. I have personally examined such examples in the North Atlantic.

The energy expent by some fish is prodigious, almost incredible, yet scientifically confirmed. King Salmon, largest and most valuable of our Pacific Salmon, travel inland to spawn. Tagged individuals have been known to travel two thousand miles upstream at the rate of fifty miles a a day, then at journey's end lay up to eleven thousand eggs, and die, as do other Western Salmon, unlike the Atlantic Salmon which return again to the sea.

The writer had the pleasure a number of years ago of going over, on the West Coast, these results with the late Dr. Charles Herbert Gilbert who accomplished these remarkable researches.

Considering the currents against which they struggle, this is equal to a three thousand mile trip during which time the Salmon take not one mouthful of food. Translated, it would be the equivalent of yourself swimming three thousand miles, from New Orleans to Cape Farewell, the southern tip of Greenland, without once pausing for sleep, for food, for a glass of milk or for the contemplation of the beauties of nature.

Fish can swim.

WILD TURKEYS FOR LOUISIANA . . .

(Continued from Page 10)

of the major considerations of the planners of the restocking idea.

There is also the consideration that a great many of the parishes of the state, are becoming more and more agricultural sections, with little food, habitat or cover remaining for game birds and animals, and restocking in these areas would be mostly a waste of time, energy and money. So if you think one section of the state is getting more quail, turkeys and deer than another, stop and consider the possibilities of these birds and animals surviving in barren fields, cultivated areas and non-protected sections. As you contribute your share to the cost of the restocking program eventually, do you want your money wasted in such a program, or would you prefer liberating these new plantings of birds and game in communities where they have at least an even chance of living and reproducing.

In both Tensas and Madison parishes, where there are now small flocks of wild turkeys, adult stock is being imported to augment these flocks and are being liberated to join the native wild birds. It is almost a certainty that these imported turkeys will show a record survival.

In the final analysis, however, it is encouraging to realize that this restocking program is being carried out according to the best dictates of modern game management, along with a certain knowledge of existing conditions in Louisiana, and not in a profligate distribution that would be not only wasteful but entirely futile, as far as restoration of wild turkeys in this state is concerned.

Johnnie A. Giordano, of Alexandria, La., with a "load" of fish, the total of one day's catch.

WHITE-TAILED DEER . . .

(Continued from Page 18)

valuable data concerning the white-tails. He states that the largest deer in Madison Parish run about two hundred and fifty to three hundred pounds live weight, and that the fawns lose their spots during the latter part of September, the does bearing a single fawn as their first offspring and thereafter produce twins. Striped oak acorns, pin oak acorns, palmetto seeds and wild pecans are the chief foods. The palmetto becomes chiefly important about mid-winter. Bucks begin to drop their antlers the latter part of February and early March and in the early spring form large concentrations numbering thirty-five to fifty in a single group.

Mr. Sevier says that the white-tails are sluggish in hot weather and on cold, crisp, still mornings feed more in daylight than when the weather is hot. Wind also reduces such feeding activities during daylight hours. Mr. Sevier also presents what well may be a controversial subject by stating that a three year old and older buck is too strong (their necks are swollen) and such not fit to eat and should never be hunted after New Year's Day, whereas a two year old or smaller buck is quite palatable until the middle of February. He has one twenty point buck which he killed, the head being mounted at his hunting camp.

Mr. Sevier believes that one important conservation measure for deer is providing them with a crop of corn. He says that he maintains between sixty and eighty acres in soft, white corn which they happen to like best (Mosby being the variety he uses). Soybeans and peas are also very much appreciated.

The final form of deer antlers depends upon many things—abundance of food, accidental injury or internal glandular upsets of the animal. Such disturbances may result in the growth of extraordinary and monstrous antlers, sometimes flattened like a caribou, sometimes covered with short, ill-formed points which may number as many as thirty in a white-tail.

The fighting of white-tail bucks may become a matter of great violence, the repeated charges tearing up as much as half an acre of territory. Rare permanent interlocking of the antlers results through starvation in the death of the two foes.

Field observers have noted that deer are capable of running thirty miles an hour, can clear an eight foot fence and can, on occasion, make a running jump over forty feet.

There may be compared with this the following speeds: King Snake (on land) .7 miles per hour, Bream (in water) 1.5 miles per hour, Chicken (running) 9 miles per hour, Elephant 24.5 miles per hour Skater 25.3 miles per hour, White-tail 30 miles per miles per hour, White-tail 30 miles per hour, Greyhound 36 miles per hour, Mongolian Wild Ass 40 miles per hour, Race Horse 42.3 miles per hour, Jackrabbit 45 miles per hour, Prong Horn Antelope 60 miles per hour, Cheetah 70 miles per hour.

It may be of interest to point out that violators of deer laws can be invariably detected by scientific precision methods not available even a half a dozen years ago.

The writer became involved in one such case where flesh of deer shot out of season had been pickled in salt. It was perfectly possible by the use of serum methods to establish that this was deer even though the meat had remained in this state for a considerable period of time. The technique, quite comparable to that used in many cases, consists simply of injecting rabbits, hamsters or other laboratory animals with the fresh blood of white-tails. This builds up a condition in the blood of the experimental test animal so that when the serum of this animal is brought in contact with an extract of the deer meat, a positive and unmistakable reaction occurs, acceptable in any court of law. This is specific. Contact with extracts of other animals, such as cattle, goats, sheep, etc., produces no response.

Still another technique utilized by the writer in aiding certain court actions is the use of the microscope to identify deer hairs. Animals hairs possess such characteristic forms that not only can species such as the white-tail be unmistakably identified, but even related species of the same mammal group can be named. An interesting instance of this occurred when illegal hunters decided to can their venison. Microscopic examination of the canned meat showed the presence of unmistakable deer hairs, and resulted in conviction. The ease of application and the sureness of these methods are startling and afford excellent additional instruments in law enforcement.

Jack W. Bates, Ranger of the Louisiana Department of Wild Life and Fisheries, has probably had as much experience with white-tails in good deer country (Manchac area) as anyone else in the department. He participated in a dramatic series of deer rescues, of which two photographs (taken by James Edouard Morgan, Curator of the Departmental Museum) are here reproduced. The aftermath storm tides of a hurricane drove great numbers of deer out of the swamps to higher land ridges. It was peculiarly interesting to observe how the fawns, exhausted by the battering of wind and water, tended to join the first does with whom they met. Such groups of as many as seven fawns and one doe were observed, approached and rescued since under the storm conditions they had lost all fear of man.

It is odd to note that where white-tails habitually cause serious damage in truck gardens and orchards, electric fences were effective, but other observers found that bags of moth balls simply tied at intervals along the fence line kept the deer out.

One amusing episode concerns a fawn that belongs to the wife of the manager of Superior Forest Reserve. It is rather an odd story. The doe was killed by an automobile and the game warden by Caesarian operation delivered the fawn, that coincided in arrival with a Cocker Spaniel puppy. The two became inseparable. The Cocker would rush away into the woods and bring back the fawn at dinner time. It was particularly a nice matter that during the hunting season the fawn always wore, and still does (although no longer a fawn), a red coat knitted carefully for that purpose so that no hunter would shoot the wrong deer. The red coat and the doe still exist.

White-tails may well continue throughout the decades to be part of America and many a new day will dawn upon the breakfast room dominated by a probably dusty and possibly moth eaten head of an extremely defunct deer, the which, nevertheless, may well serve to impress the master's wife (since it is not yet popular to stuff shot wild bunny rabbits) that her husband is really a hunter of great repute in the finest cave man tradition.

ARMS AND AMMUNITION . . .

(Continued from Page 12)

there are two principal schools of dissenters—the small-shot advocates and the large-shot advocates.

One correspondent of mine, a Westerner with a lot of hunting behind him, leaps right down my throat every time I write about shot sizes. He uses no shot larger than No. 7½, **even on geese.** On these big birds, he says, the gunner should hold far enough ahead to center the head and neck, then the numerous little pellets will get in their dirty work and result in a clean kill. He also claims that larger pellets ball up in the feathers and do not penetrate so deeply.

Members of the small-shot school say that the way to kill cleanly is to hit the birds in vital areas—the brain, the spine, the neck—and that the more pellets thrown at them, the better the chances are for vital hits.

The large-shot boys say that small pellets quickly lose their velocity and energy, and lack sufficient shocking power to down a bird unless they happen to hit a vital area. In most cases, they insist, the pellets give poor penetration, cause gangrene and slow death.

Let's take a look at a few figures on remaining energy:

Range	Energy (in ft. lb.) of Each Pellet			
(in yd.)	No. 2	No. 4	No. 6	No. 7½
12 gauge maximum load (3¾ drams of powder, 1¼ oz. of shot; muzzle velocity 1,444 foot seconds):				
10	16	10	5.9	3.6
20	12	7.5	4.3	2.65
30	10	6.1	3.5	2.05
40	8.6	5.1	2.9	1.7
50	7.3	4.4	2.4	1.38
60	6.5	3.7	2	1.1
16 gauge maximum load:				
60	3.5	1.85	1	
20 gauge maxiumm load:				
60	3.6	1.92	1.06	

"Wal, they finally fixed the duck law so's I won't break it. I kin count to four"

As you see, through the smaller gauges turn up less velocity at the muzzle than the 12 gauge, at 60 yds. the retained energy, size for size, is not much less. For another thing, the previous table shows that there are roughly four times as many No. 7½ pellets in a quail or a dove entirely unscratched.

The tighter the pattern, the larger the shot that can be used. A gun throwing a good full-choke pattern with No. 4's can still put in as many hits (with more delivered energy per pellet) than a gun throwing a cylinder pattern with the smaller and more numerous No. 5's.

The larger the gauge, the larger the shot that can be used successfully. A Magnum 10 gauge can use No. 2's, but it would be silly to attempt to use them in a 20 gauge, the maximum load of which is only half that of a Magnum 10.

Other things being equal, however, the smaller the gauge, the smaller the bird, the lighter the shot charge, or the more open the boring, the smaller the shot.

Under any circumstances there seems to be no point in using shot larger than the following: in .410 or 28 gauge, No. 7½; in 20 gauge, No. 6; in 16 gauge, No. 5; in 12 gauge, No. 4; and in Magnum 12 or 10 gauge, No. 2.

Effective killing range of various shot sizes: No. 9, 35 yds.; No. 8, 40 yds.; No. 7½, 45 yds.; No. 6, 50 yds.; No. 4, 60 yds.; No. 2, 65 yds.; in a 12 gauge Magnum, or from 70 to 75 yds., in a 10 gauge Magnum. From experience in the field, and from shooting at mail-order catalogues and then counting the number of pages penetrated, I'd say that's about the story—assuming, of course, that the shot is a recommended size for the birds taken.

If we had to get along with only three sizes of shot, we wouldn't be too badly off with No. 7½ for skeet, traps, and all upland shooting, even at grouse and pheasants; No. 6 for ducks, maybe grouse and pheasants too, and geese or turkeys up to 50 yds.; No. 4 for pass-shooting at ducks and geese in special long-range guns. If you had to get along with only two shot sizes, you could cut out No. 4; and if only **one** shot size was permitted, I think I'd take No. 6, although No. 7½ wouldn't be a bad choice either.

When in Doubt, Use Smaller Size

If you're in any doubt as to which of two shot sizes to pick, choose the smaller—it patterns more densely and gives a better chance of a vital hit. Last season I am sure I folded more pheasants with No. 7½'s than I did with No. 6's.

The man who doesn't pattern his gun with various sizes of shot and various makes of ammunition is something like the character who blithely goes out into the forests come autumn without having sighted in his rifle, or who changes brands and bullet weights with no attempt to learn how performance is affected.

J. M. Ashmore, of Oakdale, La., with 36 white perch and nine bass cought in Chicot lake by Mr. Ashmore, his wife, and Clarence Marler, of Oakdale.

Besides shooting and evaluating the conventional patterns, you'll find it very revealing to draw a life-size profile of the bird you're going to hunt, then shoot at it at various ranges and **count the hits.** When a particular shot size fails to average four hits at a certain range, you'll know you can't reach out that far with it and not cripple a lot of birds that will never reach the frying pan—yours or anybody else's!

These simple tests will tell you much about **your** gun. Maybe it has an affinity, say, for No. 8 shot and will not handle No. 7½ particularly well. Perhaps it does poorly with high-velocity loads but beautifully with standard loads. Maybe it will pattern No. 5 better than No. 4—or vice versa.

In doing your patterning, remember that the shotgun is a short-range weapon and that most ranges at which game is killed are grossly overestimated. After you draw that duck profile, take a good look at it at 50 yds. and if it doesn't seem pretty far away I'll eat it! Now lift it 75 ft. in the air and it will look twice that far away.

At 50 yds. No. 6's will knock a duck for a loop. Move him a bit closer and No. 7½'s have all the penetration you need.

MORGAN CITY FESTIVAL . . .

(Continued from Page 13)

just as tireless in his efforts to make the Press Association convention an equal success, has much to do with the genuine feeling of affection for both affairs and for Mr. King, that generates in the hearts of the visitors.

Certain it is that you always leave every affair with a happy feeling of having been royally entertained. And this year's coronation of the Shrimp Festival Queen was no exception. The amazing story of Jackie Plessala, this year's queen, is enough to warm the coldest heart. Just a little more than three years ago, Jackie Plessala was walking with the greatest effort and the aid of heavy, awkward braces, the result of infantile paralysis when she was a child. Constant treatment and an indomitable spirit through the years have won a great victory, and on the night of the Coronation Ball, after Jackie had been voted queen of this year's festival, she walked to the stage of the Morgan City High School auditorium, with hardly a noticeable limp, and was crowned by her young king, Peter Guarisco, a radiant young queen whose courage and beauty must be an inspiration to every one who knows or hears about her.

But why a shrimp festival, the uninitiated ask. For the same reason that rice festivals, sugar cane festivals, apple festivals, etc., are held throughout these United States. Morgan City is famous as home port for the great fleet of shrimp trawl boats that operate in Louisiana waters and the Gulf of Mexico. Morgan City is famous as a packing and distribution center for Louisiana shrimp, one of the state's greatest sea food industries. Morgan City is a famed center of devout parishioners of the Catholic faith, and Morgan City has no peer in this state as a city of hospitality and brotherly love. And finally Morgan City is progressive enough and aggressive enough to combine all these things into an annual fete unsurpassed. Hence the annual Shrimp Festival.

As picturesque in location as it is in population this annual festival attracts much more than merely the curious. An imposing list of city, parish and state dignitaries was in attendance this year, headed by Lieutenant Governor William J. (Bill) Dodd, United States Senator Russell Long, Ernest S. Clements, commissioner of the state department of Wildlife and Fisheries, United States Congressman Edwin Willis, and many others.

At the home of State Representative Lionel Grizzaffi, where open house was held throughout Sunday, the constant flow of notables was impressive, but no more so than the graciousness of Representative and Mrs. Grizzaffi, two perfect exemplifications of Morgan City hospitality.

Nor was the Grazzaffi home the only one where the true spirit of friendliness predominated. The same could be said of virtually every home in the city as the thousands of visitors enjoyed an unusual celebration in an unusually colorful surrounding.

RING-TAILED COON HUNTERS . . .

(Continued from Page 16)

follows: Billy Cummings, President; Guy Woodard, First Vice-President; James Talbert, Second Vice-President; James Lamkin, Secretary and Treasurer; Ben G. Craighead, Master of the Hunt.

The association has at present approximately 400 members with plans to bring the membership up to 1,000 by early fall.

The first show was staged by the association on October 5, 6, and 7, 1948 on Mr. B. R. Felts' farm near Arcadia. This coon hunter's frolic includes annual field trial, bench show, and coon-on-the-log. The total attendance for the show was more than 5,000 people.

Since staging the first show, the association has acquired, by lease, sixty acres of land on which they have constructed a pond, a club house, and an office building. A water well with an electric pump will furnish water for the campers and visitors. A mess hall is in the plans for next year's activities.

This year's show began on Labor Day, September 5, 1949 and continued through September 7, 1949. More than 5,000 people attended the second night performance this year with a total of between six and eight thousand for three nights. The present officers of the association are Jones Talbert, President; N. W. Culbertson, First Vice-President; Cecil Lee, Second Vice-President; James M. Lamkin, Secretary-Treasurer; and Ben G. Craighead, Master of the Hunt.

The officers and members of this association invite all their friends from Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Texas, and other states to attend the second largest coon hunter's frolic in the nation on the above dates.

GUN DOG PSYCHOLOGY . . .

(Continued from Page 7)

learns that he will be rewarded if he picks up thrown objects and returns them to his trainer. Finally this basic skill is narrowed into the more precise function—that of picking up and retrieving game.

Through every phase of gun-dog training, these concepts are the same. First the general principles are strengthened and directed, then narrowed into the desired response.

The best approach to the training of hunting dogs involves asking yourself: "Why does my dog do the things he does?" For by understanding the basic motives underlying behavior, the trainer can more readily and more effectively channel that behavior into precise, highly skilled functions. Performance of hunting dogs can be first-rate only if training is first-rate. Intelligence, learning capacity, build, color, steadiness—these can be improved and maintained through careful breeding. Mother Nature's contributions are many; but she cannot make a hunter of your dog.

Instinct notwithstanding—your dog can only be as good as you make him.

—Pennsylvania Game News.

NACEP HOLDS CONFERENCE . . .

(Continued from Page 4)

most instances greatly enhanced restoration, restocking and conservation programs are in progress, but it was the consensus of opinion among the directors of education and publicity, that unless more aggressive programs were adopted for the education of the general public in the protection of wildlife resources, none of these programs would attain any measure of success.

The scope of this year's conference was one of the most general ever attempted by this organization. There were sectional meetings of television, staffing and budgeting, outdoor education, exhibits, teacher training, movies, radio, newspapers and magazines, all of which are used greatly by these departments in every state for their educational and publicity programs.

One of the outstanding speakers of the conference was Michael Hudoba, Washington correspondent for "Sports Afield" magazine, who explained conservation from a national viewpoint. R. William Eschmeyer, Tennessee Valley Authority and famed biologist, spoke at length on fish conservation education, and pointed out that fish conservationists are confronted with a difficult problem, with the success of their assignment depending largely on the effectiveness of their department's education programs.

H. S. Swingle, fish culturist of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute, and one of the world's foremost authorities on public fish ponds, provided one of the highlights of the conference with his illustrated lecture on proper stocking and maintenance of public ponds.

Hendrix Dawson, educational director of the Mississippi State Fish and Game commission, was host and conference chairman, and had arranged a five-day program of intense interest, interspersed with a boat excursion along the Gulf Coast; a shrimp boil in Biloxi, and an annual banquet at which Jimmy Arrington, famed country editor and humorist, of Mississippi was the principal speaker.

It was voted to hold next year's conference in Oregon.

The bittern puffs up its loose feathers when danger threatens in order to look more formidable.

The skeleton of the ant is on the outside of the body.

LADYFISH

By Lou S. Caine

(Copyrighted by James Heddon's Sons)

IT OFTEN has been said that good things come in small packages. The truth of this quotation is forcefully verified in that small package of piscatorial dynamite, the ladyfish.

Size alone keeps the ladyfish from being the greatest gamefish in the world, bar none. Never will a saltwater angler forget his first encounter with a ladyfish.

First, the strike, then the instant the angler sets the hook the ladyfish is off on one of the most spectacular demonstrations of speed and agility imaginable.

At times it will be a series of frantic leaps into the air, then a mad dash that will fairly burn the angler's thumb; diving, leaping and doggedly resisting the retrieve, the ladyfish will fight to the last ounce of energy.

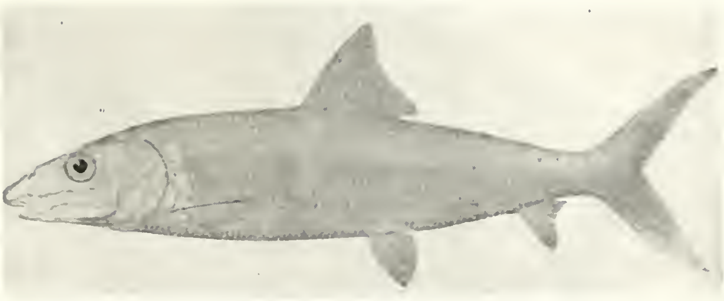
Anglers have had this unpredictable fighter rush the boat with unbelievable speed and when a crash seemed inevitable suddenly leap completely over the boat and continue its acrobatics in the water beyond.

And all this from a fish which will average from 1 to 3 pounds in weight and from 15 to 20 inches in length!

NAMES . . . For many years this fish was confused with the bonefish (**Albula vulpes**) by authorities. Even though it is now recognized by scientists by its one common name, ladyfish, there are many parts of the country where it is erroneously called Ten-Pounder, Chiro and Big-eyed Herring. Other nicknames are: Banana Fish, Flip Flap, Horse Mackerel, Bony-fish, Silverfish, Skipjack and Macabi.

CHARACTERISTICS . . . The ladyfish can be distinguished from the bonefish quite readily. The ventral fins of the ladyfish are beneath the front of the dorsal while the ventrals of the bonefish are below the rear of the dorsal. Also, the head of the bonefish is noticeably larger than the streamlined head of the ladyfish.

The coloration is glistening silver on the sides, shading off to white on the belly and light olive green on top.



RANGE . . . The ladyfish is found in the warm seas of the world, the West Indies, South America, both coasts of Mexico, Africa, Arabia and China. In North America, on the East Coast from Long Island to Florida and in the Gulf of Mexico. On the West Coast it ranges from the Gulf of California north to southern California.

It is primarily an inshore fish and will most often be found around inlets in saltwater lagoons and rivers. Tideways are good spots for these fish often feed on a rising tide.

SIZE . . . No authentic world record has been established and the largest reported sizes seldom exceed 10 pounds. The average size is from 1 to 3 pounds.

FLAVOR . . . Depending upon the angler's taste and method of preparation, from fair to poor.

FOODS . . . Shrimp, squids, shiners, crustaceans and small fish.

LURES . . . Ladyfish are often encountered while plug casting or fly fishing for other saltwater game fish, and there is no doubt when one is hooked. Such baits as spoons, feathered jigs, Sea Runts, Zaragossas, Darting Zaras and Salt water Torpedoes are excellent. Feathered minnows like the Wilder Dilg and topwater commotion flies like the Bass Bug Spook are steady producers. Spinner and fly combinations also are good.

METHODS . . . Bait casting, fly fishing, trolling and still-fishing.

TACKLE . . . For bait casting a responsive rod like the "Pal" made of tubular steel or solid glass in 5 or 5½ foot length, medium action, is ideal. With this is used a fast, light reel like the "Pal" with 100 yards of 15 or 18 pound test nylon line.

Fly rods should be on the stiff side otherwise it will be impossible to handle this silver streak. A 9-foot rod with "Power Plus" action, made of tempered, split-bamboo is recommended. With this is used a C level or HDH tapered line and a good single action reel like the Imperial.

While saltwater anglers seldom deliberately fish for ladyfish, when a school is encountered the action is so fast and exciting that whatever fish they were originally searching for is completely forgotten.

I HAD TO BRING THEM ALONG ... SHE WON'T LEAVE THEM WITH A SITTER

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LOUISIANA HUNTING SEASON

1949-1950

RESIDENT GAME BIRDS AND ANIMALS

BOB-WHITE (quail or partridge): December 1-February 20 inclusive. Bag limit 15, season limit 120, possession limit 30.

WILD TURKEYS: Closed Season.

DEER (Bucks only): November 15-January 10 inclusive. Provided that the season shall not exceed 45 days and Commissioner of Wild Life and Fisheries may close, curtail or shall fix the season in each parish any time between these dates, not to exceed maximum of 45 days. Illegal to kill does or fawns at any time. Illegal to take fawn or deer with horns less than three inches long. Bag limit 1 daily, 2 a season. Night hunting with headlight, or camp hunting for more than 3 days, forbidden. Ask for special form indicating Legal Hunting days in each Parish, if any.

SQUIRRELS and CHIPMUNKS: October 15 thru January 1, inclusive. Bag limit 10, possession limit 10. (Squirrels and Chipmunks 80 in the aggregate per season.)

RABBITS: October 15-February 15, inclusive. Limit 5 per day. Sale prohibited. Night hunting with headlight forbidden.

BEARS: Closed Season.

TRAPPING SEASON: November 20 to January 20, inclusive, on all fur-bearing animals, except muskrats and nutria.

MUSKRAT and NUTRIA: December 1 to February 15, inclusive.

MIGRATORY GAME REGULATIONS

DUCKS: November 18 to December 27, inclusive. Daily bag limits on ducks (except American and red-breasted mergansers) are 4 in the aggregate of all kinds, including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck. Any person at any time may possess not more than 8 ducks in the aggregate of all kinds (not including American and red-breasted mergansers), but not more than 1 wood duck. American and red-breasted mergansers, 25 singly or in the aggregate. No possession limit on American and red-breasted mergansers. WARNING: NOT MORE THAN ONE DAY'S BAG LIMIT MAY BE POSSESSED OPENING DAY.

COOTS (Poule-d'Eau): November 18 to December 27, inclusive. Bag limit 10, possession limit 10.

GEESE: November 18 to December 27, inclusive. Daily bag and possession limit 4, including in such limit either 2 Canada geese (including Hutchinsons or Cackling geese) or 2 White-fronted (locally called Speckled-belly) geese, or 1 of each.

DOVES: December 1 to December 30. Bag limit 10, possession limit 10.

SNIPE: Closed Season.

SORA.*

* SORA RAIL—small bird, 8½" long, brown back, brown and white striped belly, black face and throat, slate breast.

September 1 to October 30, inclusive. Bag limit 25, possession limit 25.

RAILS and GALLINULES.**

** RAILS and GALLINULES—four species: King Rail, Clapper Rail, Florida Gallinule and Purple Gallinule. The King and Clapper Rails, same size, approximately 15". King Rail chiefly dark above, brown breast, striped belly, keeps to fresh water. Clapper Rail much browner breast, browner back, striped belly. Keeps to brackish and salt water, chiefly. Gallinules, similar in size, 13". Florida Gallinule—brown above, slate below, scarlet bill with a yellow tip and scarlet forehead shield. Purple Gallinule—purple below, green back, red bill with a yellow tip and a bright blue forehead shield.

September 1 to October 30, inclusive. Bag limit 15, possession limit 15.

WOODCOCK: December 23 to January 21, inclusive. Bag limit 4, possession limit 8.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR DUCKS, GEESE, COOTS, SORA RAILS AND GALLINULES:—ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO ONE HOUR BEFORE SUNSET. NOTE: ON OPENING DAY OF SEASON SHOOTING CANNOT START BEFORE 12:00 NOON. ASK FOR FORM OF SHOOTING SCHEDULES.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR WOODCOCK:—ONE-HALF HOUR BEFORE SUNRISE TO SUNSET.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR DOVES:—12:00 NOON UNTIL SUNSET.

Use of bait and live decoys prohibited. Legal limit of migratory game birds may be possessed 90 days after the close of the season. Hunters of ducks and geese must have a federal duck stamp attached to their state hunting license or old age permit. Duck stamps required by Federal Government can be obtained from U. S. Postoffice. Use of rifles or guns larger than a 10-gauge, or guns capable of holding more than 3 shells prohibited. The plug used in guns must be incapable of being removed without disassembling gun. Legal possession limits of resident game birds or game animals may be possessed up to within 30 days of the opening of the following season.

HUNTING LICENSE, RESIDENT	$ 1.00
Required of all hunters, except persons over 60 years of age who must have old age permit.	
NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE	$ 25.00
TRAPPING LICENSE	$ 2.00
(Only residents permitted to trap)	
FUR BUYER, resident license	$ 25.00
FUR BUYER, non-resident	$100.00
FUR DEALER, resident (Deposit $500.00 required)	$150.00
NON-RESIDENT DEALER, (Deposit $1,000.00 required)	$300.00

DEPARTMENT OF WILD LIFE AND FISHERIES

STATE OF LOUISIANA

ERNEST S. CLEMENTS, Commissioner

Report all Violations to your Nearest Wild Life Enforcement Agent